

Remarks of Sen. Olympia J. Snowe  
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation  
Subcommittee on Aviation  
Reauthorization of the FAA and Recommendations of the  
National Civil Aviation Review Commission  
April 30, 1998.

**Mr. Chairman:**

**There is no doubt in my mind that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) are very important to the United States.**

**Charged with overseeing the safety of those traveling by air, the FAA is arguably the most challenged of all government agencies. Without their vigilance, hundreds of thousands of people every day would be placed in harms way as they traveled from city to city, state to state, by aircraft.**

**The Airport Improvement Program is important because it provides the necessary funds for maintaining the infrastructure those traveling by aircraft rely upon. Without these funds, it would be very difficult for the airports in Maine and across the country to maintain their facilities and runways.**

**What I question, however, is the need to create a new level of management to oversee the daily operational air traffic services or to be more responsive to the needs of the users.**

**Although I will keep an open mind on the Administration's proposal, we simply cannot create another layer of bureaucracy at the FAA and hope to solve the management and operational problems.**

**I Also question the limits placed upon participation in the State Block Grant program. This program has been proven to work and**

should be available to all states which desire the flexibility it provides. The State of Maine, for one, would like to enjoy the benefits of this program and I would, for one, would like to see the State Block Grant Program expanded so they could.

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I look forward to hearing Ms. Garvey's remarks.